

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

VIRGINIA ON THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.

Out of nearly one hundred and forty counties in the State of Virginia, only twelve are known to have moved in favor of the proposed Nashville Convention. Not a single county in Virginia west of the Alleghenies is yet known to have declared in favor of it.

"The only indications from the trans-Allegheny country [says the Richmond Whig] consist in strong resolutions of approval of Mr. BRALE's opposition to the Nashville Convention. Is all that region to be set down as *unsound*? From the Blue Ridge to the Ohio there has been profound silence or loud dissent; certainly not one word of approbation has reached our ears."

GEORGIA ON THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.

The Augusta (Ga.) *Constitutionalist*, an earnest supporter of the Southern Convention, gives the thing up in Georgia. We copy a few of its own words:

"The meager vote given for delegates in the recent election is a virtual defeat of the Southern Convention movement in Georgia. So far as this State is concerned, we look upon it as dead and buried. No exigency that might arise on the slavery question between this and the first Monday in June can revive it. No enormity of anti-slavery legislation by Congress ought to induce the delegates voted for in Georgia to take their seats in that Convention. Nor should the delegates elected by unanimous vote of the Legislature do so. The action of the Legislature has not received a proper endorsement by the people of Georgia."

In the Columbus (Georgia) *Esquire* of April 5 we find the following decided and entirely rational views of the same subject:

"The election for delegates to the Nashville Convention is over, and it must now be apparent to every man of ordinary sense that the people of Georgia desire to take neither part nor lot in that proposed assembly. The past history of our State furnishes proof enough that her rights cannot be trampled upon with impunity. On many occasions of real wrong her authorities have had defiance to the power of their oppressors, and been sustained by the hearts and hands of the people. Each will be the case again, when the hour comes to let peace and sacrifice the union of the country in order to save the rights of this particular section. Even then, however, we think it extremely doubtful whether it will be deemed important to send a parcel of men to Nashville, or any where else, except to our own State capital, to teach the people the mode and measure of their resistance. On these subjects, indeed, they need but little teaching. Intelligent, watchful, and patriotic, they stand prepared at all times, not only to vindicate their rights, but also to rebuke, as they did last Tuesday, the insolence of demagogues, and the low cunning of political underworkers."

"It was admitted on all hands that the proposed Convention would possess no power to redress the grievances of which the South complain. Many regarded it as unconstitutional; still more deemed it inexpedient; and thousands on thousands thought that any thing but good would result from its deliberations. In short, there pervades the minds of the people of this State one universal and all-pervading feeling of sorrow and regret that the Legislature should, in the excess of its folly, have given the sanction of its high authority to a measure of such doubtful and perhaps dangerous policy. We make no particular guard, however, with the Legislature, but will merely suggest, and recent events have rendered even that suggestion unnecessary, that the great body of the people have no sympathy in political movements which may endanger the integrity of the Union, and cannot ensure the safety of any particular section. Such movements are always regarded with suspicion, and will always be checked in time."

Col. JOHN S. HUNTER, of Dallas county, (Ala.) one of the most prominent citizens of that State, a leading member of the Whig party, and we believe one of the largest slaveholders in the State, has written a letter on the slave controversy, which is published in the Dallas *Gazette*. Col. Hunter is one of the delegates appointed by the Legislature to the Nashville Convention. He says that he will not shrink from the appointment, but that he has no idea that the Convention ever will be held. "Hollow and selfish politicians" have been long enough at work in expatriating what was once a sober and just discontent. Now, he believes, the grave and the good will not suffer the opportunity for adjustment. But as it is, the people will have nothing to do with it. They have taken their stand, have said to the North "thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." What more is to be done? Can a convention of delegates do more? If not, then why hold the Convention?

The Suffolk (Va.) *Intelligencer* of the 12th inst. thus chronicles the result of the call for a meeting of the people of Nansemond county to consult on the question of sending Delegates to the Nashville Convention:

"The meeting called on Monday last, (court day,) to consider the propriety of sending delegates to the Nashville Convention, ended in smoke. *Not citizens enough could be found to form a quorum for such a meeting.* In fact, why should they? Have they been informed of the objects of the Convention? Convince them that any benefit will result from its meeting, and we have no doubt but that it would receive favor and support from all our citizens. Convince them that it is other than the dissolution of the Union, or the reiteration of what has been said by our State Legislature, and it would receive some support. But as it is, the people will have nothing to do with it. They have taken their stand, have said to the North 'thus far shalt thou go, and no farther.' What more is to be done? Can a convention of delegates do more? If not, then why hold the Convention?"

THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.—The Mobile Register proposes that the Convention be held at Washington. Washington is the very last place on earth for such an assembly. If the Convention must be held, we would have it far removed from the political influences that pervade the atmosphere of Washington. To that end, we would suggest San Antonio, Texas, as a very suitable place for the Convention.—*Mobile Advertiser.*

We respectfully protest against the amendment proposed by the Advertiser. San Antonio is a hallowed spot in Texas; the blood of her sons was in times past freely poured out in defence of constitutional liberty around its walls, and the grave of many a true-hearted patriot is there. Let not unhallored feet disturb the peaceful calm, nor croakings of disaster go forth from the place where once resounded the battle-shout of freedom. If men must meet under a fanciful idea of grievance, with a view to destroy the proud fabric of freedom, let it be elsewhere than in that spot, which, though remote from the busy world, and unimportant with regard to locomotion, is yet rich with its historic reminiscences, and can point to its bullet-marked walls, and say of the sleeping inmates of its grass-covered tombs, here are my jewels.—*Gastonian Journal.*

Well, we give it up; the soil of San Antonio should not be desecrated by such an assembly. Where, then, oh! where shall the Convention be held? And echo answers, NOWHERE!—*Mobile Advertiser.*

FROM NEW MEXICO.

ST. LOUIS, APRIL 17.—Advice received here from Los Vegas to March 6th give the details of some of the recent Indian depredations in that country. The Americans are living in constant dread, and the savages are daily becoming more daring. Runners sent by a party of buffalo hunters had arrived at Los Vegas, who report that the company had had a skirmish with a band of Apache Indians, in which two whites were killed, and three or four wounded. Their animals were all stolen, and the Indians escaped with their booty. Three Mexicans had been murdered on the road between Los Vegas and Santa Fe. Complaint is made that sufficient care has not been taken in granting licenses to traders, many having sold arms and ammunition to the Indians.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

CHARLES W. CUTLER, to be Navy Agent for the naval station at Portsmouth, N. H.
F. A. BEELER, of Pennsylvania, to be Consul of the United States for Angostura, in the Republic of Venezuela.

PHILIP CLAYTON, Esq., of Georgia, to be Second Auditor of the Treasury.

WILLIS DE HASS, of Virginia, to be Consul of the United States for Merida and Sisal, in Yucatan.

CURTIS H. SAUNDERS, of Tennessee, to be Consul of the United States for St. Catharine's, Brazil.
J. J. WICKES, to be Assistant Treasurer of the United States and Treasurer of the Mint at New Orleans, in the State of Louisiana.

SLAVE COLONY IN CALIFORNIA.

In copying a paragraph which has gone the round of the Northern press, stating that a large number of slaves were soon to be carried out from the neighborhood of Jackson, Mississippi, in order to plant a slave colony in California, *The Southern*, a newspaper printed at Jackson, says:

"This paragraph doubtless has its origin in an anonymous advertisement which has appeared in the *Mississippian* for some time; and which, common report says, is a project of that very practical gentleman, Gen. ———. We do not know of a solitary man in this city or county who does not look upon the project either as the dream of a visionary, or as the offspring of a mischievous desire to persuade the Northern friends that, unless the 'saving grace of the Wilmot proviso' is put upon our new Territories, they will soon be peopled with slaves, and in the uncontrolled possession of slaveholders. In whatever motive the scheme originated, it is in direct conflict with all that was said by Messrs. Cass, Walker, Fox, Buchanan, the Washington Union, the *Mississippian*, and, in fact, the universal case party, in 1848, when running the Senator from Michigan for the Presidency, on the 'non-intervention' doctrine. It was then the policy of the party to say that 'slavery never could go to these Territories,' and that both God and Nature had written a Wilmot proviso upon the face of the country; but now, when they think it becomes their party interest to preach up a diametrically opposite doctrine, and array the North and the South in angry hostility against each other about what Mr. Benton would call 'God's wool,' California and New Mexico are *admirably and peculiarly adapted to slave labor*. The anonymous advertisement referred to will be copied far and wide, to convince the Free-Soilers that the Wilmot proviso, as was said by the Case men in 1848, 'a firebrand of factitious,' 'an abstraction,' or 'a humber,' but a measure of great practical necessity to all 'opposed to the extension of slavery to territory now free.' That the Case men were right in 1848, as to the impossibility of slavery, and its want of adaptation to slave labor, every day's experience shows; but the opposite ground is now more available as a means of embarrassing the settlement of the slavery question, and of sowing, breaking down, and opposing to the bitter end the Administration of President Taylor."

THE TEMPER POWER.—The National Intelligencer says:

"The greater than usual excitement, and the agitation, at the present juncture, of questions almost entirely geographical and sectional in their character, are to our minds (as heretofore printed) most obviously referable to the anticipations of the effect of the census, to be taken this year, to change the balance of power in this Government, so as to interpose between the Southern and Northern interests a third power, of which will be found to be greater, on some questions, than both united—that of the great West, the population of which has been growing, during the last ten or fifteen years, with a rapidity defying all computation, and outstripping thought itself. Though, providentially, this growth of the West must strengthen the efforts of the Union, while it will add to the general prosperity of every part of it, it is not at all unnatural that it should awaken some feeling in the minds of statesmen and ambitious men in other divisions of the country, or that it should be regarded with some jealousy on their part."

The above remarks of the *Intelligencer* are full of truth and significance, and it is well for the North and South to know at once that the offspring which they have mutually raised, and which has taken the title of the "Great West," has cast off the swaddling clothes of infancy, and now lays claim to healthy independent maturity. The day has passed when either the North or South may rule the Union, and they may as well yield the heretofore alternating supremacy with a graceful bow and contented smile as to become factious and make exhibition of naughty feelings about that which they cannot help. Hereafter, the West must be consulted upon all important matters, and maybe she will feel inclined to be a little officious in some affairs that the North and South may think exclusively their own. The yea and the nay of the West will settle all the undignified disputes which may arise between the "chivalry" and "doughface" sections of our country, and will teach somebody some very useful and conservative lessons in the science of democratic republican government. Especially will the West see to the perpetuity of our glorious Union, and, if need be, will exert a trifle of her physical force in vindication of her will. Should the North and the South get by the ears about the Wilmot proviso, or any other humbug, the West will probably feel it incumbent upon her to pull them apart before they are much injured, and then, with the North in one hand and the South in the other, will hold them up *vis a vis*, just out of striking distance, until the grin of the "nigger" has made the one party sick, and the impotency of abolitionism has made the other feel foolish; and then perhaps they will be inclined to follow good advice and go about their business, and no more disturb the peace of a great people, whose Government was the conception of a Washington and whose Constitution was the labor of his illustrious contemporaries.

Camellion Economist.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—The Montreal Pilot of Saturday last contains an effectual contradiction of the Minnesota story of the safety of Sir John Franklin, in the following letter from Sir George Simpson, dated

"Hudson's Bay House, (Lachine), April 12.

"I regret to say there is no foundation whatever for the statement, which appears to have originated in the arrival at St. Paul of an express sent thither by the Hudson's Bay Company's officer at Red River Settlement, with letters from McKenzie River, conveying the reports of Capt. Pollen and Mr. Rae to the Lords of the Admiralty, which reports are to the effect that nothing had been discovered throwing any light on the fate of the missing expedition."

"Capt. Pollen, who left her Majesty's ship *Placer*, at Wainwright Inlet, reached the Hudson's Bay Company's post of Fort Good Hope, on the McKenzie River, on the 14th of September, from whence he came up that river to the post of Fort Simpson, where he is passing the present winter with the intention of proceeding to York Factory, on Hudson's Bay, at the opening of the navigation, in order to take his passage to England in one of the Hudson's Bay Company's ships from there next autumn. It is possible, however, that instructions from the Admiralty, which were transmitted to me here about two months ago, and were immediately forwarded to Capt. Pollen by express, may detain him during the ensuing summer and winter in making a further examination of the arctic coast, in connection with the Hudson's Bay Company's parties employed upon the same service."

One of the brigades designed for the polar expedition, now fitting out at the city of New York to search for Sir John FRANKLIN, is in the Sectional Dry Dock for the purpose of being overlaid with planking, and otherwise fitted for navigating the Arctic seas. Both vessels are to be fitted out in a manner not unlike those engaged in the whaling service at the extreme North. Timbers are placed across their holds, from one side to the other, to guard against lateral pressure from the ice; their bulkheads are made almost solid with timbers and braces, and strong fastenings are introduced at all the exposed parts. Two thicknesses of planking and one layer of planking, with felt intervening, covers their decks. Over this will be placed a coating of saw-dust and turpentine, the more effectually to guard them from the cold, after the manner of treating pilot-boats in the winter season. These vessels will also be furnished with the materials with which to construct a sort of building or enclosure on deck, in case they become fixed in the ice for any considerable time. Quite a number of men are constantly employed in making these preparations.

VALUATION OF A "FOREIGN APPOINTMENT."

FROM THE "MONK JOURNAL."

There is a phrase which "does many a chore" in the conveyance of meaning, and there are far more sounding and pretentious ones that we could better afford to lose—the phrase "it don't pay." Born, as it was, of a quality that is the spinal marrow of American character and success—the obstinate reduction of every thing to its real value—we venture to propose for it an enlarged respect, and to suggest to Mr. BANCROFT an inquiry into its more particular birth and parentage, as an historical key to the time.

Spite, however, of "does it pay?" asked of almost every thing as a matter of habit, there are things (as there are men) that, in the hurry of the world, go overvalued for a wonderfully long time; and among these is what is commonly called a "foreign appointment." The eagerness with which this is sought, the other hopes that are thrown up, and the time, money, and dignity expended in the pursuit of it, make it worth while, perhaps, that the question "does it pay?" should be asked and answered.

Of our "full mission" (to England, France, Russia, and Spain) we need not speak, as there is generally an ulterior motive in the acceptance of them, and the immediate advantages are the least inducement. But of a *chargé-d'affaires* let us try to give an idea.

The diplomatic career of a foreign agent is a society of men of all countries, picked for their consummate tact and accomplishment, bred to diplomacy as a profession, often men of rank, and married to ladies of court breeding and elegance. They are the more immediate circle around the sovereign, and the upper class of the court society, to a great degree, governed in its taste and opinions by the diplomacy. To discharge the mere business of the countries they represent, is a small portion of the anxieties, and the smallest task on the abilities of these functionaries. The game of predominate in national dignity and position—in the influence of their country at that court—is the one which they play with all their powers, and the ability and means for which are the standards by which they measure respect for a new comer.

Few things in this world require more tact, nice discrimination, and a quicker sense of both natural and artificial politeness, than conversation and manners in this refined sphere. The only language spoken is French, and, to all foreign diplomatists, this is as familiar as their native tongue. Difficult as polite conversation is, with all the advantages of unembarrassed language, it becomes proportionally difficult, or rather ludicrous, with an imperfect knowledge of the language.

Courts being places hedged round with formalities and ceremonials, the consequence of a diplomatic representative depends more than seems rational—far more than in a republic—on the appearance he makes and the style in which he lives. It is with an appreciative knowledge of this, that foreign Governments give ample salaries to their ministers—the pay, of one of equal rank, being three or four times as much as that of one of our own. Mr. Lawrence, our minister in London, does not equal the display of the Russian and Austrian ambassadors, and yet, for the rent of his house only, he pays one thousand dollars more than the whole amount of his salary. It is all very well to say, where a minister is not rich enough to supply wants from his private purse, that plainness better becomes a republic; but, knowing the wealth of our country as they do, reading our high-sounding pretensions, and not used to reasoning abstractly on such matters, the "plainness" envelopes the American representative in an unescapable atmosphere of meanness.

The reception of an American *chargé* at a foreign court, where he is neither a very accomplished gentleman nor a master of the French language, nor possessed of sufficient means to make an appearance suitable to his rank, is one of such contemptuous toleration that, if it could be fully realized by those seeking the office, it would make most of them willing to take much more pains to avoid it. The ceremonious honors due his diplomatic rank are carefully paid. He has a grave reception by the sovereign. He is called on by the court ministers and the nobility, and by the diplomatists of other countries, with strict observance of etiquette. He is invited to the larger entertainments, at which his equals in rank are guests of necessity. There is an inner society, however, which he never sees, but where he furnishes some of the spiciest material for the gossip, in the way of ridicule. His blunders, in reply to ceremonious speeches, furnish targets for the wit that sparkles round him unperceived. His shifts, in the way of equipages and the expensive requirements of court costume for his family, are being observed and stored up for amusement at the very moments when he is overwhelmed with bows and brilliant receptions. He has no other passport than diplomacy in which he can show the "political influence" or "business habits" which got him his office. If he lives years at a capital and accepts invitations from the diplomatists, without entertaining in turn, he is the court counterpart of a "gratuitous ticket" at a theatre; and if he entertain at his own lodgings, and on the scale of his own pay, he is simply ridiculous. Where idleness is the business of life, and to be agreeable is his highest ambition, "a new joke about the American *chargé*" is enough to induce an ambassador to order up his equipage with two chairs behind, and drive to twenty palaces for the morning call to which "such a good thing" would lend variety.

Of course the favor of ladies puts a man within all this, and a young and handsome bachelor, who spoke French perfectly, and a man of tact and breeding, might do very well at a foreign Court on the pay of an American *chargé*. To him it would be valuable as a school of polite life, and to such an "office-seeker" the office might be "a thing that will pay," although leading to nothing beyond. But to a man who leaves any thing respectable, in the way of a vocation at home—or to a man of family who wishes to retain a sense of proper pride and independence—more especially to any man who is not a master of courtesies, by his talent and accomplishments, and is susceptible to polite contempt of his country and himself, a "foreign appointment," as the reader will have seen, is an honor of very little attraction in the possessing.

A CHARGE OF KIDNAPPING SETTLED.

CASE OF JONATHAN LITTLE.—We find in the *Huntingdon (Pa.) Journal* of the 16th inst. the following account of the final disposition of this affair:

The case of the Commonwealth vs. Jonathan Little and others, was settled by the counsel upon both sides; and as the case has excited some interest, we give the facts, as we have learned them, to the public.

The Hon. ALBERT CONSTABLE, appointed as counsel for Little by the Governor of Maryland, having learned on his arrival here that an indictment for kidnapping was pending against him in Centre county, upon which a bench warrant had been issued, and was in the hands of the sheriff of Huntingdon county; and that another warrant for the apprehension of Little had been issued in Mifflin county, upon a similar charge, both of which were ready to be served on him whenever he appeared in this country; and also that other cases would be commenced against him if he was arrested and taken to Bellefonte, it was an object of the first importance to avoid, if possible, the trial here, by which his appearance in court would be dispensed with, and thus his arrest on the other process avoided. This was accomplished on terms entirely satisfactory.

The records of Maryland were here to prove Finley (the negro) a slave; the sons of his mistress were, who knew him, and had authorized Little to take him; every thing requisite to prove the negro a slave, and, consequently, Little innocent upon the indictment. Upon these grounds the prosecution was abandoned.

This settlement not only acquits Little, which was the only object of the mission of Mr. Constable, but avoids the necessity of procuring bail in both Centre and Mifflin counties, upon similar charges, which, of course, would have involved the same attention on the part of the State of Maryland, one of them having already been tried there and disposed of, and likewise have multiplied expenses to a heavy amount. The county was indemnified from costs by the settlement, which would have come out of the treasury, whether Little had been convicted or acquitted. Little was virtually acquitted, and avoided arrest and imprisonment upon process from adjoining counties, and returns to his family, which we are assured is large, and entirely dependent upon his labor for support.

We trust this settlement of a vexed question, which, under existing circumstances, needs no agitation to increase excitement upon it, may be the precursor of a better state of feeling among the citizens of the adjoining State, whose interests are so intimately blended.

A CARD.

The subjoined "Card" was handed to our Reporter on the day after the occurrence to which it relates:

"In the report of the unhappy occurrence which took place yesterday in the Senate, I regret to perceive one or two slight inaccuracies, which I hope you will promptly correct. The inaccuracies alluded to are not in the report of the debate, which is one of the most accurate I ever saw, but in the following statement.

[Here Mr. FOOTE, who occupies a seat on the outer circle, in front of the Vice President's chair, retreated backwards down the aisle, towards the chair of the Vice President, with a pistol in his hand. Mr. BAXTON, a moment before, having suddenly risen from his seat and advanced by the aisle, outside the bar, towards him, following him into the aisle down which the Senator from Mississippi had retreated. In a moment almost every Senator was on his feet, and calls to 'order!' demands for the Sergeant-at-arms; requests that Senators would take their seats, from the Chair and from individual Senators, were repeatedly made. Mr. BAXTON was followed and arrested by Mr. DUNN, of Wisconsin, and in the confusion and excitement which prevailed, he was heard to exclaim, from time to time: 'I have no pistols!' 'Let him fire!' 'Stand out of the way!' 'I have no pistols!' 'I disdain to carry arms!' 'Stand out of the way, and let the assassin fire!' While making these exclamations, Mr. BAXTON was brought back to his seat; but, breaking away from Mr. DUNN, of Wisconsin, who sought forcibly to detain him, he advanced again towards Mr. FOOTE, who stood near the Vice President's chair, on the right-hand side, surrounded by a number of Senators and others not members of the Senate. Mr. DICKINSON took the pistol from the hand of Mr. FOOTE, and locked it up in his desk, and Mr. FOOTE, on the advice of Mr. BUTLER, returned to his seat.]

"Now, as to the 'advent' spoken of, it was simply a movement in a line—could make something like a right angle with the one along which the Senator from Missouri was advancing. On seeing him advancing, I simply guided towards the alley leading from the Secretary's chair to the door, intending to take a defensive attitude, and then await any assault which might be made. I could not have done otherwise, without, in a certain event, endangering the lives of unoffending persons. You seem to represent myself as being pursued by my antagonist down a narrow alley. If you allude to the alley along which I walked in order to take my defensive attitude alluded to, you are in error, as the person alluded to did not even reach my seat, nor even get more than something like half-way from his seat to mine. The fact is, that I neither retreated nor, nor advanced upon the Senator referred to: I simply advanced to a convenient position for purposes of defence. You say 'Mr. DICKINSON took the pistol from the hand of Mr. FOOTE.' This is true, but I would add, that it was cheerfully surrendered on application being made for it, and upon seeing that I was no longer in danger of being assaulted. I regret that I have deemed it necessary to make this explanation, but I did not know how to avoid it.

H. S. FOOTE."

POLICE.

We understand that the following letter was yesterday communicated to the United States Attorney for this District:

C STREET, APRIL 18, 1850.

To PHILIP R. FENDALL, Esq., United States District Attorney:

Sir: A pistol was drawn upon me yesterday in the Senate Chamber, and, although the Senate has taken notice of that act, and commenced a proceeding upon it, yet this proceeding is no bar to the action of a court of justice, and, besides, the power of the Senate is limited. I think it proper subject for a court of justice, and wish it to be brought before the Criminal Court of this District for the examination and decision which the laws would give it. I enclose a National Intelligencer of this morning, an official reporter of the Senate proceedings, and have marked the passage to which I invite attention. I do not send the paper as evidence, but as a guide to the inquiries of the Grand Jury, and have to add that I will be ready to appear before that body, if required, and perhaps to give the names of some persons as witnesses.

Respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. BENTON.

THINGS IN NEW YORK.

The Hotels of the city are crowded to overflowing. The Astor House and the New York Hotel are not able to accommodate all who apply for rooms, and the Irving, we learn, is in the same interesting condition. In addition to the usual number of arrivals from the country and from abroad, there are probably from three to five thousand persons now in New York waiting and preparing to embark for the land of gold. Our hotel-keepers are making their fortunes. *Monnot*, of the New York, it is said, will be able to count up the handsome harvest of \$50,000 in a twelvemonth.

[N. Y. Mirror.]

A NOBLE EXAMPLE.

We are truly gratified to learn the liberal and patriotic contributions made by officers and seamen of our gallant Navy in aid of the National Washington Monument.

Remittances have just been received from a portion of the squadron on the coast of Africa, viz:

The U. S. sloop of war "Yorktown," Captain J. Mason, \$121.

The U. S. sloop of war "Portsmouth," Capt. E. Peck, \$191.

The U. S. brig of war "Porpoise," Commander B. F. Sands, \$241.

In the latter vessel there are but seventy-one persons, among which we notice a contribution from M. Buff, one of the crew, for \$25, (more than three months of his pay.) Such actions are worthy of all praise.

On Thursday a vote of the people of ALEXANDRIA was taken on the question, "Shall the Common Council of Alexandria subscribe for \$150,000 of the capital stock of the Manassas Park Railroad Company, upon condition that the further sum of \$350,000 of said stock be subscribed for by parties other than the Corporation who are solvent and able to pay?" And on this the vote stood: Yeas 501, nays 7. This road is designed to facilitate business intercourse between Alexandria and the Valley, and is expected to contribute much to the prosperity of the sections of country thus proposed to be more closely united.

The Petersburg (Va.) *Intelligencer* says that on Wednesday last it snowed at that place during almost the whole day. It was not cold enough, however, for the snow to cover the ground, as it melted as fast as it fell.

Two chemists of Nuremberg, Germany, have published a memoir on the dangers connected with certain manufactures in which phosphoric matters are employed. The preparation of phosphoric matches has produced in the workmen, diseases of the jaw bones, which have sometimes destroyed life, and often occasioned the loss of the bones.

NAVAL.—We learn from the Norfolk papers that the U. S. steamer *Saranac*, Capt. TATNALL, from Portsmouth, (N. H.) arrived here on Saturday afternoon. The passage from port to port occupied exactly three days. Two boilers only were used, a valve connected with the third being found defective.

STRAWBERRIES.—The Congress of Fruit Growers at New York, out of the great number of strawberries which had been fully proved, up to 1849, recommended only THREE for general cultivation, viz: Early Virginia, Boston Pine, and Hovey's Seedling.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—A young lady in Philadelphia died on Monday last from an illness occasioned by picking a fever blister upon her lip with a pin. The lady exhibited every death all the appearances of those who die from the effects of poison contracted from the bite of venomous reptiles.

THE CUBAN EXPEDITION AGAIN.—It is positively asserted that 500 men, pretending that California was their destination, left this port on the Martha Washington of late, destined for Cuba, and with full intention to join the recent expedition said to be organizing for an assault on the government of the Island.—*Cincinnati Commercial*, 9th.

Within a day or two several men have left this city, and many have passed through here above, who, it is said, have been enlisted for the proposed expedition against Cuba. We understand that they have been engaged for one year, and have been promised them. Nothing more than that their destination is charged has been imparted to them, so far as we can learn.—*Louisville Courier*, 6th.

UNITED STATES MINT.

The Philadelphia American, in support of the opinion that the published receipts of California gold were above the true amount, says:

"It was stated by the last arrivals from Chicago, bringing the San Francisco mails and specie shipments of March 1st, that upwards of three millions of gold dust were received at New York. Col. Snowden, the treasurer of the United States Mint in this city, informs us that by these arrivals he has received only one million four hundred thousand dollars, and it is not at all likely that there is more than from one to two hundred thousand dollars worth of dust remaining in private hands."

The total amount of California gold received at the United States Mint is thus officially stated:

Total receipts at the Philadelphia Mint up to March 31, 1850,	\$9,796,321
Receipts from 1st to 5th April,	75,000
Receipts by steamers Cherokee, Empire City, &c., bringing the San Francisco shipments of March 1st, 1850,	1,400,000
Total receipts at the Branch Mint at New Orleans, up to February 28, 1850,	1,604,131
Estimated receipts from March 1st to April 15, 1850,	550,000
Add, in private hands,	\$13,425,452
Grand total,	\$31,625,452

The mint at Philadelphia is now coming about two millions of dollars per month, and is about to receive alterations and additions, which when completed will enable it to coin, when worked to its full capacity, at least \$3,500,000 per month, or *forty-two millions per annum*. The difficulty, we fancy, will be in finding a supply of the precious metal, great and steady as is the influx of California gold.

A private letter from Para River (Brazil) states that Lieut. WASHINGTON REID, of the navy, died on board the sloop-of-war *Albatross* on the 18th of February last, of bilious fever, after a short illness, in the thirty-third year of his age. He was the son of Capt. Samuel C. Reid, of New York, and entered the service in 1832.

The First Lieutenant of the ship of the line Ohio, who died at Rio de Janeiro just before the ship sailed, was C. M. ARMSTRONG, of New York.

CHOLERA AT HAVANA.—By the United States frigate *Raritan* reports are received that the cholera was raging at Havana on the 9th inst. There were 300 cases and 150 deaths from that disease.

STEAM ON THE PACIFIC.—One of the steamers which recently left New York is going to the Pacific for the purpose of plying regularly between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands. Here is one link, and a long one, too, in the chain of steam communication which is to unite China with the United States. The other great link, from the Sandwich Islands to China, will follow in due course.

WINTER IN APRIL.—A letter, dated Plainfield, Hampshire county, Mass., April 17, contains the chilling news which follows:

"Thermometer 16 degrees below freezing. Snow 18 inches deep in the woods, and almost all depths in the open fields. On Friday night last snow fell to the depth of eight inches, and so damp that we thought it would not be likely to drift, but the drifts from this snow storm have been more than twice as deep as any other winter. Nevertheless, we are confidently expecting summer before many months."

We regret to learn that Northumberland House, the residence of JOHN R. STRUT, Esq., of Northumberland county, Virginia, accidentally caught fire and burnt down on Saturday last. Almost all the furniture, &c. in the house was also destroyed.

THE OPium TRADE IN CHINA.—Notwithstanding the Chinese Government has for forty years endeavored to arrest the traffic in this demoralizing drug, it was never in a more thriving condition than at the present moment. The treaty concluded with England, by which the island of Hong Kong was ceded to the British, and five of the principal Chinese cities were thrown open to British trade, has afforded increased facilities for its successful prosecution. It is stated by Nathan Allen, M. D., who has just prepared a pamphlet presenting a comprehensive view of the trade as carried on at the present time in India and China, that more than 50,000 chests are now annually shipped to China, taking off in return three times as much opium as is sent to the United States. According to the most recent intelligence, the sale will reach 60,000 chests this year.

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Mrs. Ireland and daughter, of Quincy, Illinois, came to an awful death by freezing and starvation on the mountains during the past winter. They were on their way to California. The wife and daughter, with the full knowledge of their situation, and after they had burnt up their wagon for firewood, insisted upon the husband and father leaving them to their fate, and seeking his own safety. The Burlington (Iowa) *Hawkeye* says: "We almost shuddered when our informant told us he did so."

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